

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

Initially it should be noted that the cited prior art reference, namely, U.S. Patent 4,801,382 to Kemmelmeyer is the basic device to which the instant application is an improvement. As the examiner will note, the inventor in the prior art reference is the same as the inventor in the instant application. Claim 17, the sole independent claim in the instant application has been extensively amended so as to set forth with specificity the differences between the instant invention and the disclosure of Kemmelmeyer's earlier '382 patent document. Claim 17 as amended now sets forth with specificity the structure of the present invention and the resulting function attributable to the structure which constitutes the inventive concept over Applicant's previous '382 patent. Support for the now claimed subject matter can be found with reference to the Substitute specification in paragraphs [0006], [0010], [0012], [0020] and [0053]. The mating roughened sealing surface means of the end faces of the filter elements ensures that there is no twisting. This structure ensures that the problems referred to in paragraph [0006] are avoided.

Applicant's previous '382 patent does not teach, disclose, suggest or render obvious the subject matter now claimed in independent claim 17. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the formal issuance of a Notice of allowance.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the

Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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